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15 May 1973

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Cease-Fire Developments

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CAMBODIA	
New Proposals	

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CAMBODIA

The Military Situation

Communist forces launched fresh attacks on 15
May against government defensive positions along
Route 3 some twenty miles south of Phnom Penh. They
have reportedly surrounded or attacked several small
positions along the roadway and have occupied a twomile section of the highway about 15 miles south of
the capital. Government forces to the South, supported by heavy air strikes, have expanded Takeo's
defensive perimeter two to five miles to the southwest and west. In a clash with Khmer Communist
forces west of Takeo on 14 May, government troops
reportedly killed 62 enemy and seized substantial
quantities of arms and ammunition.

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LAOS			

New Proposals

Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma submitted new proposals to chief Lao Communist negotiator Phoumi Vongvichit in Vientiane on 14 May. It softens the government's position somewhat on the stationing of Pathat Lao security troops in Vientiane and Luang Prabang, and offers minor changes in the distribution of cabinet portfolios. Although Phoumi reacted negatively, he said he would forward the proposals to Lao Communist headquarters at Sam Neus for consideration. Souvanna was evidently not surprised by this response and believes Sam Neus's reply will depend on the results of the meetings between Dr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho.

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